

Funds to Orissa for administrative reforms

1383. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank propose to advance funds to Orissa for carrying out administrative reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a team of this apex bank has visited the State to assess the progress of the on-going structural reforms; and

(d) if so, the salient features of their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The World Bank has approved a US \$ 225 million Second Orissa Socio-Economic Development Loan and Credit (OSEDL—II) on August 1, 2006 and the necessary Agreements were signed between the Government of India and the Bank on August 28, 2006. The loan is in the nature of general budgetary support for a wide ranging programme that includes administrative reforms. These administrative reforms include initiatives to enhance transparency and accountability in public life through better information to the public about their entitlements, strengthening of district administration, and effective devolution of responsibilities to local bodies and community groups. These also include identification of new skills and staffing needs in departments and districts, and business process re-engineering for increasing the efficiency of selected service including municipal services, land administration and public distribution system. The Government of Orissa's programme includes a comprehensive anti corruption strategy aimed at strengthening enforcement mechanism, preventive measures, public awareness and reforms in public procurement process including introduction of e—procurement.

(c) and (d) A World Bank team visited orissa during October 9—12, 2006 to review progress and support implementation of the programme. The team expressed satisfaction with progress in implementing the programme.